

P22032.A02



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Mitsuru TAKAI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2641

Appl. No. : 10/084,177

Filed : February 28, 2002

For : NEXT PROCESS-DETERMINING METHOD, INSPECTING METHOD  
AND INSPECTING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 28 2002  
Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §§1.97-1.98,  
Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-242746, which was published on  
September 7, 1999. Applicants note that this document is discussed on pages 2, 4, and 26  
of the specification of the above-captioned application; and

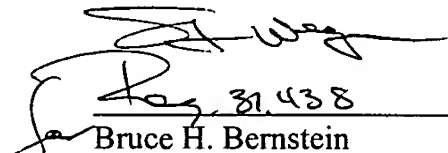
Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 2000-251069, which was published on  
September 14, 2000. Applicants note that this document is discussed on pages 3 and 5 of the  
specification of the above-captioned application.

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Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and are listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mitsuru TAKAI et al.

  
Reg. No. 31,438  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce H. Bernstein  
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May 24, 2002  
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[illegible][illegible]


DATE CONSIDERED

**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.